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STAR OF MYSORE

OUR EVENING DAILY

Vol. 43 No. 100 Pages: 6 Rs. 2.00
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MYSURU Wednesday 3rd June 2020
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SOUTHERN STAR
MYSURU

Maharashtra link brings two COVID-19 positives to Mysuru

Pregnant woman, her mother test positive in Bengaluru; now shifted to Hospital in City

Ramakrishnanagar G-Block and surrounding areas sealed, disinfectants sprayed

Mysuru, June 3 (MTY, KS &BCT)- Several districts of Karnataka have a common tale of woe: They are unable to contain the spread of COVID-19 pandemic due to migration of people from Maharashtra --- those coming from Mumbai and Pune.

There has been a huge increase in the number of COVID positive cases in Mandya, Kalaburagi, Vijayapura, Yadgir, Bidar, Raichur, Belagavi and Udupi districts ever since movement of migrants was allowed, especially from Maharashtra.

This morning two women who arrived from Bengaluru to Ramakrishnanagar in Mysuru on Sunday night tested positive. They had a travel history of Mumbai. As such, Ramakrishnanagar G-Block 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th and 9th Cross have been sealed down. But the two COVID positive cases does not come under Mysuru's account but will come under Bengaluru.

From Thane to Bengaluru

The two women arrived in Mysuru from Mumbai via Bengaluru and one among them is in sixth month of pregnancy. The pregnant woman, her husband and her mother had come to Bengaluru from Thane in Maharashtra. The trio arrived from Mumbai to Bengaluru in a flight on Sunday. At the Kempegowda International Airport, the husband, wife and her mother were screened along with other passengers and their throat swabs were collected and were sent to laboratory for tests. The swab test report which was received yesterday night declared them positive for COVID-19. Health officials in Bengaluru informed the couple about them testing positive and asked them to stay in home quarantine.

Travel to Mysuru

As per the rules released by the State Government, institutional quarantine is exempted for pregnant and aged women. As such, they were asked to be in home quarantine and report to health officers if they have any symptoms. But the pregnant woman's husband was shifted to COVID Hospital in Bengaluru.

On Sunday night, the pregnant lady and her mother took a taxi and reached their house at Ramakrishnanagar G-Block. Learning about the pregnant woman's travel to Mysuru in a taxi along with her mother, health officials informed Mysuru Deputy Commissioner Abhiram G. Sankar who directed the officials to shift the women to the designated COVID-19 Hospital on KRS Road.

Social distancing in family

The DC and officials have instructed other family members to be under home quarantine. The Deputy Commissioner also instructed the residents of the area not to panic and not to pay heed to any rumours. As they were told to maintain social distancing, the two women did not mingle with any of the other family members and were staying in a separate room above their house. Even the food was not shared between the family members.

(See POSITIVES on page 6)

Kodagu gears up to tackle possible rain disasters

25-member NDRF team lands in hilly district; to conduct mock drills in vulnerable areas

Madikeri, June 3 (PS&BCT)- With only a few hours left for the onset of monsoon as per the forecast by Indian Meteorological Department (IMD), the Kodagu District Administration, which battled two devastating floods and landslips in the last two years, is leaving little to chance in the rich coffee-growing district.

As if to showcase its preparedness to combat the floods, a team of National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) has already landed in Kodagu and they are being familiarised with the district's hilly terrain and possible risks while rescuing or evacuating people. Fortunately for Kodagu, the number of COVID-19 positive cases is negligible when compared to districts like Udupi, Mandya and Kalaburagi.

(See KODAGU on page 6)

STAR PUNCH By Satish Acharya

KRS South Gate statue project ruffles feathers

How can Rajarishi Nalwadi's and Sir M. Visvesvaraya's statues be treated equally, questions Historian

Nalwadi Krishnaraja Wadiyar and Sir M. Visvesvaraya.

Mysuru, June 3 (SBD&BCT)- The ongoing project of constructing life-size statues of Rajarishi Nalwadi Krishnaraja Wadiyar, the patron and the financier of Krishna Raja Sagar (KRS) Dam and Sir M. Visvesvaraya (Sir MV), Wadiyar's Dewan and the Chief Engineer who built the Dam at the Southern Gate of the Reservoir, has ruffled the feathers of certain sections of the society who have questioned the logic of placing Nalwadi's and Sir MV's statues at the same level.

They have demanded that only Nalwadi's statue should come up near the Southern Gate prominently while Sir MV's statue can come up at a different place. They argue that though Sir MV's contribution to the Dam is invaluable, it cannot be compared with the sacrifices and the vision of Nalwadi who is the single force behind the development of the erstwhile Mysore Kingdom, the fruits of his work of which are being realised and experienced by the present generation. Voices against equally treating Nalwadi and Sir MV have been raised by a group led by Historian Prof. P.V. Nanjaraj Urs, who has been vocal whenever questions and clarifications about the history of Mysore is raised. Prof. Urs and like-minded individuals met at Jaladarshini Guest House in Mysuru on Monday and discussed about the statue project.

Bone of contention

The State Government has approved the project worth Rs. 9.71 crore where the statues and domes (Mantapas) would be constructed using white marble stones. Both the statues will be of 22X22 metres length and width (22.387 metres X 22.387 metres). They will have a height of 9 feet and will stand on 2 feet pedestals and as per the project, both the statues will be treated equally and both will be accorded equal prominence. This particular point, however, is the bone of contention now.

"How can one treat Rajarishi Nalwadi Krishnaraja Wadiyar, the visionary Statesman and Sir M. Visvesvaraya, the Engineer-Extraordinaire, who planned and executed the Dam, equally? We are not opposed to Sir MV's statue and we do not hate him. We have tremendous respect for his technical and engineering skills. But we are opposed to the equal treatment meted out to both," Prof. Nanjaraj Urs reasoned.

Memorable for many generations

Justifying his stand, he said that the contributions of Nalwadi is memorable and beneficial for many generations and it was due to this, people of Mysuru still revere him. "When the idea of a reservoir germinated in his mind in 1911 for drinking water and irrigation requirements, the budget of Mysore Kingdom was Rs. 2.50 crore while Rs. 2 crore was needed to build the Dam. The Maharaja did not step back but stood firm in his decision and for the welfare of generations of people, his mother Maharani Vani Vilas Sannidhana took the precious gold and diamond jewellery from the royal vaults and handed them over to Nalwadi," Prof. Urs said.

"The invaluable jewels of royal family were sold without a second thought. For Nalwadi and his mother, welfare of people was paramount. Sir Visvesvaraya was the engineer then and later he was promoted as the Dewan. While Nalwadi and Maharani Vani Vilas Sannidhana sold off the royal family jewellery, Sir MV was the person who executed the project. We cannot place both of them in same plane and cannot treat them equally, though Sir MV's contributions cannot be negated or undervalued," Prof. Nanjaraja Urs said.

Seek public opinion

Criticising the Government project to establish statues equally at Southern Gate of KRS Dam, he said "Let the Government plan Sir MV's statue elsewhere inside the Dam premises. Let the Government collect public opinion in Mysuru and Mandya before going ahead with the project any further."

The meeting decided to take the issue up to Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa and for that a separate meeting would be called on June 4, which coincides with Nalwadi's birth anniversary.

Karnataka Rajya Raitha Sangha District General Secretary Hosakote Basavaraju, Prof. Shafeel Mustafa, Sitharam, President of Bovi community, Aravind Sharma, Sosale Siddaraju, Deepu, Choranahalli Shivanna, Yamuna, K.V. Devendra and others were present.

'Recommend Nalwadi's name for Bharat Ratna posthumously'

Mysuru, June 3 (PM&BNR)- The 136th birth anniversary of Nalwadi Krishnaraja Wadiyar was celebrated by Karnataka Sena Pade by offering floral tribute to a portrait of Nalwadi and by distributing 'Mysore Pak' to the public at Kote Anjaneyaswamy Temple premises this morning.

DCP A.N. Prakash Gowda, Palace Board Dy. Director T.S. Subramanya and Industrialist M.N. Doreswamy, who were the chief guests on the occasion, were felicitated with Mysuru Peta.

Speaking to media on the occasion, Prakash Gowda said that 'Mysore Pak' was introduced by Maharajas and Karnataka Sena Pade is distributing the same sweet on the eve of Nalwadi's Jayanti. "We should be indebted to Mysore Royal Family as their contribution to the growth of Kannada land is immense," he said.

Karnataka Sena Pade District President Tejesh Lokesh Gowda, recalling the contributions of the late Maharaja, urged the State Government to recommend Nalwadi's name for Bharat Ratna posthumously.

Nalwadi's 136th Vardhantotsava tomorrow

Mysuru, June 3- Nalwadi Krishnaraja Wadiyar's 136th birth anniversary will be celebrated on June 4, in a simple way in the wake of the lockdown due to COVID-19. According to a press release by Kannada and Culture Assistant Director H. Channappa, the Jayanti programme will be held in association with the District Administration.

As part of the Vardhantotsava, Ursu Mandali Sangha, Mysuru, will be offering floral tribute to the Wadiyar's statue at K.R. Circle in city tomorrow (June 4) at 10.30 am.

Later, District Minister S.T. Somashekar and MLA S.A. Ramdas will offer floral tribute to a portrait of Nalwadi at the Sangha premises on Tyagaraja Road. Sangha President S. Lingaraje Urs will preside.

Election to four Rajya Sabha seats from State on June 19

Bengaluru, June 3- The election to four Rajya Sabha (RS) seats from the State that will fall vacant soon will be held on June 19. The election will take place to the RS seats held by Prabhakar Kore of the BJP, B.K. Hariprasad and M.V. Rajivgowda of the Congress and Kupendra Reddy of the JD(S) who are going to retire in a few days after completion of their term.

Releasing the poll schedule in the State Capital on Tuesday, Vidhana Sabha Secretary and Electoral Officer M.K. Vishalakshi said that the nominations has begun from Tuesday (June 2) itself. The last date for filing of nomination papers is June 9 and the scrutiny of nomination papers will take place the following day (June 10). The last date for withdrawal of nomination papers is June 12 and the poll will take place on June 19 between 9 am and 4 pm. The counting of votes will be taken up immediately after polling ends and the results would be announced the same day, she said.

With the announcement of the poll schedule, hectic political activities in all the three major parties (BJP, Congress and JD-S) has begun with keen aspirants lobbying to get their party ticket. While the ruling BJP is certain to win two seats going by its numbers in the State Assembly, the Congress and the JD(S) are eyeing the two remaining seats.

VOICE OF THE READER

Evaluation of II PU answer scripts: Some thoughts

Sir,

This has reference to the news item, **"MLC opposes Divisional-level evaluation of II PU answer scripts"** (*Star of Mysore* dated June 1, 2020). I see there is some rational in the stand taken by the MLC in trying to put some logic into the mind of PU Board officials.

The MLC claims that he had written a letter to the Primary and Secondary Education Minister over a month ago regarding the same issue and yet the Government stood its ground and went ahead with the already chosen path disregarding the health and safety of the teachers.

Under the present circumstances of COVID's adamant strides towards the pinnacle of death and destruction, it would have been the legitimate responsibility of the Government to seriously consider the dangers it would be pushing the teachers into, by holding the valuation at the Divisional-level.

I totally agree with the idea of the MLC because it would mitigate the difficulty of reaching the centre of valuation (in the absence of proper transportation facilities), in time and further the problem of accommodation for hundreds of them, as many lodges and hotels have closed down due to COVID lockdown. Is it not the job of the 'People in Power' to pay attention to these realities?

Under usual circumstance, that is when there was no COVID, somehow teachers, especially ladies, would have managed to stay away from families, putting up with a lot of problems of lodging and boarding. While we are on the subject of evaluation of II PU answer scripts, permit to share with the readers of *SOM*, the ordeals we, in the seventies and eighties faced.

What with one rupee per paper as valuation fee and a princely ten rupees or so, as daily allowance, in Bangalore (which was woefully insufficient even in those days), paid sometimes months after the valuation work was over. Many of us would be bankrupt even before half of the work was over and had to borrow from friends and relatives.

Now I know, the payment structure for teachers has vastly improved, a great relief indeed, but money is not the solution for everything.

I wonder whether the Government will ever treat teachers decently. It looks as though the teaching community is taken for granted, as the teachers are often drafted to Census of all kinds or election duties etc. When will the authorities realise that teachers too need to be treated with the 'Respect' and 'Concern' that they deserve, whether it is evaluation of answer scripts or any other responsibility assigned to them.

— Prof. K.V. Satyan
Camp: Dallas, Texas
2.6.2020

Obituary

K.S. Mani

Mysuru, June 3- K.S. Mani (72), a former hotelier and a resident of Gururaja Layout, passed away last night in city after a brief illness.

He leaves behind his wife Jayamani, sons Jeevan Kumar and Chethan Kumar, daughters-in-law, grand children, sister Geetha Rani, brother K.S. Ganesh (Babu) and a host of relatives and friends. Mani's mother had pre-deceased him on May 22, 2020. Last rites were performed at the foot of Chamundi Hill this afternoon.

Abdul Siddiq

Periyapatna: Abdul Siddiq alias Laiq (60), a resident of Dodda Masjid Street in the town, passed away in the early hours of today at his residence following brief illness.

He leaves behind two sons, one daughter and a host of relatives and friends. Last rites were held at Jamiya Masjid Burial Grounds this afternoon.

Elected

Mysuru, June 3 (RKB&DM)- City doctor Dr. Srividya was elected as the second Deputy Governor of Lions District 317A in the elections held simultaneously in Mysuru, Mandya and Bengaluru on Saturday.

Dr. Srividya defeated her Suresh Ramu by a margin of 60 votes (235-175 votes).

Earlier last year, Dr. G.A. Ramesh was elected as the District Governor, while Dr. Prabha Murthy was elected as the first Deputy Governor.

Mysuru Bishop demands setting up of Christian Development Corporation

Mysuru, June 3 (SPN&PM)- Bishop of Mysuru Rev. Fr. Dr. K.A. William has urged the Government to establish a Christian Development Corporation for the overall welfare of the community.

He was speaking at a programme organised to felicitate newly- appointed Christian Development Council (CDC) Chairman Joylus D'Souza at St.Philomena's College in Bannimantap here on Monday.

Pointing out that the CDC, which was formed in 2012, has only limited allocation by the Government, the Bishop observed that the CDC was of little help to educated Christian youth.

Calling for upgrading CDC to Christian Development Corporation, he said that it will largely help the community's youth and the poor.

Noting that many Government Departments have been using Christian educational institutions and health facilities for organising departmental programmes, he said it is regretful to note that officials were apathetic to the problems and plight of community members.

Appealing the Government to de-list Christian community from Category 3B reservation, the Bishop said that the current listing is disadvantageous to the community in many ways, be it in getting jobs or Governmental benefits. He asked the community leaders to urge the Government to drop the Christian community from 3B category list.

BJP leader Dr. Anil Thomas, in his keynote address, said that Chief Minister Yediyurappa, in his previous stint as CM in 2012, had set up Christian Development Council with a startup fund of Rs.50 crore. Now, Yediyurappa has allotted Rs.200 crore for the CDC in this year's budget which is most welcome.

Maintaining that the grants provided by the BJP Government was very much useful for community members, he said that the other demands of the community will be brought to the notice of the Government.

New CDC Chairman Joylus D'Souza, who hails from Dakshina Kannada district, was felicitated on the occasion.

Bishop Mohan Manoraj, Fr. Leslie Moraes, Fr. Timothy John, Mathew B.Suresh, Robert and others were present.

CDC Chairman's appeal to Govt.: Addressing a press meet at Patrakarthara Bhavan earlier in the day, CDC Chairman Joylus D'Souza said that the State Government has been appealed to establish Christian Development Corporation for better redressal of community issues.

He said that although the CM had sanctioned a big amount in 2012, the CDC has limited authority and can only take up works such as repair and development of Churches. Pointing out that the CDC has limited scope for overall development and welfare of the community, Joylus said that a memorandum will be submitted to the Government soon seeking establishment of Christian Development Corporation as a broader initiative for comprehensive development of the community.

Praising Chief Minister Yediyurappa and PM Modi for showing concern for the development of the society as a whole, he thanked the CM for allocating Rs.200 crore and extending support for community welfare measures.

Dr. Anil Thomas, Rev. Fr. S. Charles and others were present at the press meet.

'Basava Ratna' award conferred on Corona Warriors

Mysuru, June 3 (MTY&DM)- District Minister S.T. Somashekar conferred the prestigious 'Basava Ratna' award, instituted by Mysuru Sharana Mandali, to four Corona Warriors of the city — MCC Commissioner Gurudatta Hegde, Additional Deputy Commissioner B.R. Poornima, District Health Officer Dr.R. Venkatesh and Mediwave IVF and Fertility Research Hospital Managing Director Dr. Sharath Kumar — at a programme held at Mysuru District Journalists Association (MDJA) here on Sunday.

Dr. S. Ravikumar, son of Dr.Sharath Kumar, received the award on behalf of his father, who could not make it to the programme.

Speaking on the occasion, Kannada Book Authority (KBA) Chairman Nandish Hanche said that Mysuru Sharana Mandali had done a good job by honouring Corona Warriors, who are doing a great service in the District Administration's battle against the deadly Novel Coronavirus.

Chamaraja MLA L.Nagendra, Mysuru Sharana Mandali President Mugur Nanjundaswamy, Mysuru District Co-operative Union President H.V.Rajiv, District Kannada Sahitya Parishat President Dr. Y.D. Rajanna, MDJA President C.K. Mahendra, leaders U.S.Shekhar, Dr. D. Thimmaiah and others were present.

In this week's Pet Talk,
Maneka explains how to take care of kittens whose mother has died or abandoned them

Pet Talk

Maneka Gandhi

Is declawing a cat illegal in India?

Yes, Onychectomy or De-clawing is an offence punishable under the Animal Welfare Act, 2011 of India. The Chapter IV of the Act deals with provisions regarding Cruelty to Animals Generally. The Section 17 (I) of the Act expressly states that:

"mutilates an animal in any manner including ear cropping, tail docking, defanging, de-clawing, branding, piercing or kills any animal in any manner other than that prescribed by the Board;"

In any case no vets in India know how to do it.

How to take care of kittens whose mother died or left them?

The normal, healthy birth weight of a kitten is about 99.22 grams. By the end of the first week, a kitten typically should double its body weight putting it at about 198.44 grams, so these are good weights to record in order to monitor a kitten's growth. If a kitten isn't gaining enough weight it may mean, there is something wrong that needs to be addressed.

After two or three days, a kitten's umbilical cord will dry up and fall off, but its eyes and ears will remain closed for a little while yet. At this point, the kitten is dependent entirely upon its mother (or foster human) for warmth, food and hygiene. It will crawl around on its belly, cry if it is hungry, sleep. You'll need to play the role of mother if your kitten is an orphan or has been neglected by its mother.

Kittens are unable to regulate their body temperatures when they're only a few days old, so blankets, a heat lamp, heating pad, and other elements may be necessary to ensure a kitten stays warm. If a kitten gets too cold it can die.

Watch the kittens for a lack of weight gain or weight loss. These things could indicate the kitten is not eating enough or there is something else wrong. Look for bubbles or liquid coming out of the noses. This could indicate aspiration or a hole in the roof of the mouth. Watch for bloated bellies. This may mean that a kitten isn't urinating or defecating and might need some assistance from you. Routinely check the colour of the tongue and gums of the kittens to ensure that they are bright pink. Make sure each kitten is moving around to sleep and

nurse. A normal kitten crawls on its belly to find a nipple.

If a kitten is orphaned and needs to be bottle-fed, a special cat milk replacement formula should be used to provide proper nutrition. A homemade kitten formula can be used temporarily. A new-born kitten should consume about seven teaspoons in a day and will eat small amounts every two hours.

How to help kittens to defecate and urinate?

Stimulate the kitten with a soft, absorbent tissue: At each feeding, stimulate the kitten to use the bathroom. Use a soft, absorbent, disposable cloth (tissues or toilet paper will work great), avoiding harsh products like heavy paper towels which could irritate the kitten's skin.

The body position for stimulating kittens can vary; find the position that works best for you and the kitten. Hold the kitten steady with one hand, and gently rub the genital region in a circular motion with your soft tissue. The kitten should begin to pee. Continue to stimulate the kitten until she is no longer peeing. Depending on the kitten's age, this may take anywhere from 10 to 40 seconds. If the kitten needs to poop, stimulate their bottom the whole time that they are pushing. Stimulating helps encourage them to use their muscles to pass stool, so continue until the kitten has finished her business.

How many times a day do you have to feed your kitten?

Kittens need roughly twice the nutrients of adult cats, for both growth and energy. Obviously, their tummies cannot handle large quantities of food. Therefore, much like human babies, they need frequent feedings at first, tapering off as they grow. It is important during this time to weigh the kittens regularly, to ensure they are gaining regularly, but not becoming overly fat.

Is it safe for pregnant women to keep cats?

You do not have to get rid of your cat. You just need a little planning and know-how. Cats and babies have coexisted peacefully for thousands of years. Because toxoplasmosis can cause birth defects in children, pregnant women sometimes assume that they must get rid of their cat. This is entirely unnecessary, as a few simple measures will safeguard against catching the disease.

Toxoplasmosis is a disease caused by a parasite that can infect your cat if she eats prey already harbouring the parasite, or comes into contact with contaminated soil, or eats raw or undercooked meats.

Many women naturally acquire immunity to toxoplasmosis and will not pass it on to their unborn child. In fact, the chances are that you have already been exposed to toxoplasmosis. Your doctor can test to see if you are in this group. If so, you have no worries about getting it during pregnancy. Keep your cat indoors, don't handle the litter box while pregnant, clean the litter box after each use, wear gloves and wash your hands, avoid infection from raw meat, avoid infection from soil. These will help you throughout pregnancy.

To join the animal welfare movement contact
gandhim@*nic.in*
www.peopleforanimalsindia.org

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Readers with queries about their pets health, care and behavioural issues may send their questions to *SOM* : *voice@starofmysore.com*

Tirumala Temple to hold 'trial run of darshan'

Hyderabad, June 3 (Agencies)- The Andhra Pradesh Government has given nod to Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanam (TTD) to conduct a 'trial run of darshan' at the Tirumala Temple with TTD employees and local devotees. On a request by the TTD, which manages the affairs of the world's richest Hindu temple, the State Government accorded the permission with the concurrence of the Department of Health and Family Welfare.

In a memo issued by JSV Prasad, Special Chief Secretary to the State Government, the TTD will hold a "trial run for TTD employees and local public of Tirumala, with limited number of people duly ensuring physical distance of 6 feet at all times and all points."

The order was issued on a request made by the Executive Officer of TTD through a letter

on May 12.

The nod came a day after the Centre began ''Unlock Phase-I''. Under the guidelines issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs, it is proposed to allow places of worship to re-open from June 8.

The Andhra Pradesh Government, however, has not yet issued any guidelines to implement Unlock Phase-I. It is still continuing the restrictions on the inter-State movement of people.

The nod to TTD, however, indicates that the State Government may allow reopening of places of worship from June 8.

TTD Chairman Y.V. Subba Reddy had said on May 20 that resumption of 'Srivari darshan' to devotees depends on the Central Government decision to lift the lockdown.

"We have been receiving e-mails and phones on when we would resume 'darshan.' But it all depends on the Government's decision on lifting of lockdown," he had said.

Closed for devotees for 'darshan' since March 19, the hill shrine is losing almost Rs. 200 crore in revenue every month. Daily offerings made by devotees in 'Hundi' is the main source of revenue for the temple which attracts 50,000 to one lakh pilgrims every day.

DKS installation as KPCC President on June 7 postponed

Bengaluru, June 3- Senior Congress leader and former Minister D.K. Shivakumar's (DKS) assumption of office as KPCC (Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee) President which was scheduled to take place on June 7, has been postponed as there is no permission to hold any political meetings until June 8 due to COVID-19 regulations.

Speaking to presspersons at the KPCC Office here, DKS, who is MLA from Kanakapura, said that the installation ceremony had to be postponed as political or public gatherings are not permitted.

Elephant adopted

Mysuru, June 3- Dhruv Compusoft Consultancy Pvt. Ltd., Mysuru, has adopted an elephant of Mysuru Zoo for five months from May 22, 2020 to Oct.21, 2020, by making payment of Rs.75,000, under the animal adoption scheme, according to a press release.

Bags first prize

Mysuru, June 3- City writer A. Hemaganga has bagged the first prize (Mysuru District) in the online poetry recitation contest organised by Mandya's Young Writers Club. The contest was held at both State and District-level, in which Hemaganga bagged the first prize in respect of Mysuru district.

78th Vardhanti of Sri Ganapathy Swamiji

As part of the 78th Vardhanti of Sri Ganapathy Sachchidananda Swamiji of Avadhoota Datta Peetham, Mysuru, members of Mysuru District City and District Brahmana Sangha called on Sri Swamiji at the Ashrama premises yesterday to greet him. Sangha President D.T. Prakash, Sangha Rural President Gopalrao, Akhila Karnataka Brahmana Mahasabha State Vice-President K. Raghuram Vajpayee, Organising Secretary M.R. Balakrishna, youth leader Kadakola Jagadish, Vikram Iyengar, Apoorva Suresh and others were present. Junior Pontiff Sri Datta Vijayananda Theertha Swamiji is also seen. For Swamiji's 78th birthday message, log on to https://youtu.be/k3pBCvPiCdc

BEO inspects online revision of SSLC students

Mysuru, June 3 (RK,BNR& LNY)- After a long delay due to COVID-19 induced lockdown, the SSLC exams are now scheduled to be held from June 25 to July 4. With the State Government mooting to start revision classes online for the SSLC students, many educational institutions have already begun online classes to their wards.

In Mysuru too, exam-oriented online classes are going on at many schools including BVB, Paduvarahalli Government School and Good Shepherd High School.

Respective school teachers are guiding their students online using various media like YouTube, WhatsApp and sharing expected question paper and updating students by clarifying their doubts. Nearly 50-60 students join in a session using Zoom App through which two subjects are taught each day with half-an-hour duration for each subject.

In this connection, D. Udaya Kumar, BEO, Mysuru North Zone, inspected the process at Good Shepherd Convent and held discussions with the teachers.

Speaking to *Star of Mysore* in this regard, the BEO said: "Out of the 120 High Schools coming under my limits, 30-32 schools including Good Shepherd, BVB and St. Philomena's Schools, are conducting online classes. I am visiting all the schools to take stock of the same."

N. Jayanthi, ECO, Mysuru North Zone, Preethi Joseph, Manager, Good Shepherd Convent, C.L. Beena, Head Mistress, Good Shepherd Convent High School and staff were present during the BEO's inspection.

Illegal banana traders evicted from Boti Bazaar

Seized bananas fed to Palace elephants

Mysuru, June 3 (RK&KS)- Following complaints to the DC and MCC Commissioner by the residents that the vehicles of illegal banana traders were causing traffic snarls on Ane Sarot Street near Boti Bazaar, the MCC authorities yesterday evicted them from the road. As there were problems in maintaining cleanliness, the MCC authorities following instructions from MCC Commissioner Gurudatta Hegde had instructed the illegal traders to clear the shops voluntarily many times, but they were continuing their business at all vacant spaces on the road.

Also, MCC Zone-6 Zonal Officer Nagaraju, who had conducted an operation along with the Abhaya team, had been instructing the illegal traders to shift to APMC yard since two days, but the traders had continued the business.

Yesterday morning, the MCC authorities conducted an operation on these illegal banana traders, evicted them and seized the fruits. The seized fruits were later fed to the Palace elephants on instructions from higher officials.

Devaraja Inspector Prasanna and staff provided security during the eviction drive. The MCC authorities warned the illegal traders of initiating legal action if they again continue their business on the road.

After leopard, stray dogs pack kill 10 sheep at Hanagod

The sheep that were killed by stray dogs at Kanagalu village yesterday afternoon.

Hunsur, June 3 (Mahesh&KS)- The residents of Kanagalu village and surrounding places at Hanagod hobli in Hunsur taluk, who were living in a state of fear following killing of their livestock by leopard, now have another animal to be feared as a pack of stray dogs killed 10 sheep at Kanagalu village yesterday afternoon.

One Nagegowda had left his sheep to graze near the sheep pen yesterday afternoon, when a pack of stray dogs attacked and killed all the 10 sheep. Though the villagers pelted stones on the dogs, they continued their killing spree and left the spot later. The cost of the sheep is estimated to be more than Rs. 1 lakh.

Meanwhile, villagers said that there were leopards on the prowl in the region, which had killed more than 10 sheep and cows in the past and added that yesterday afternoon too, a sheep belonging to one Madegowda of B.R. Kawal was killed by a leopard.

They further said that though they tried to scare the leopard by making sound and trying to divert its attention, the leopard did not leave the sheep and left only after killing it. Pointing out that one or two domestic animals are killed daily, the villagers accused the Forest officials of turning deaf ears to their pleas to capture the leopard and save their livestock.

The villagers said that the leopard was frequently being spotted during daytime and again urged the Forest Department officials to capture the leopard at the earliest.

Miscreant in the guise of doctor steals mobile phone of patient

Mysuru, June 3 (YDS&KS)- A miscreant in the guise of a doctor has made away with the mobile phone of a patient at K.R. Hospital on Tuesday afternoon.

The patient, who lost the mobile phone, is Geetha, a resident of Yaraganahalli in city.

On Tuesday afternoon, Geetha, who was suffering from respiratory problem, had come to K.R. Hospital as an out-patient for a check-up along with her grandmother Lakshmamma.

At about 3.30 pm, when Lakshmamma was talking with her relative Avinash over the phone, the miscreant, who heard their conversation from a distance, came to Geetha in the guise of a doctor and told her that he wanted to speak to Avinash and asked Geetha to call him.

Geetha, who called Avinash from her mobile phone, handed over her phone to the miscreant when Avinash answered the call. The miscreant, who began to speak over the phone, walked out of the ward while still speaking on the phone.

Geetha, who immediately rushed outside the ward and looked around, found the miscreant missing along with her phone. When she tried calling her phone number the phone was switched off. No complaint has been filed so far in this regard.

Irwin Road widening picks up pace

Works on demolition and widening of Irwin Road that began yesterday has picked up pace this morning with new drainage laying on the stretch. Parts of the road near the historic Jumma Masjid have been dug up to lay new pipes. Traffic on some of the stretches near the Jumma Masjid has been blocked since morning. Once the work is undertaken in full swing, traffic will be completely blocked on the busy Irwin Road.

Maharashtra link brings two positives

(Continued from page 1)

Disinfectants sprayed: Not leaving any chances, after the women were shifted to the COVID-19 Hospital, the MCC's Abhaya team sprayed disinfectants to the house, the road where the house is located and the surroundings of the house. They have also sealed down the area and barricades have been put up on the roads.

As the family members have been put under home quarantine, doctors would be visiting them daily to check for COVID-19 symptoms and if at all they have symptoms, samples would be collected for swab tests. If the family members do not show any symptoms, their swab samples would be collected after 12 to 14 days for tests.

The taxi driver has been traced by the phone number provided by the women and he has been informed about the women testing positive.

The driver has been instructed to be in home quarantine and then report in Bengaluru Hospital for tests.

Kodagu gears up to tackle rain disasters

(Continued from page 1)

The 25-member NDRF team is a part of 10th Battalion stationed in Guntur and Vijayawada Districts of Andhra Pradesh and at Madikeri, they have been housed at 'Maithri,' the Kodagu District Police Bhavan. The team will be in the district till the monsoon ends or till the Kodagu Administration needs assistance and has come from Andhra Pradesh, following a request by the Kodagu Deputy Commissioner Annies Kanmani Joy.

Rescue mission

The team was accorded a warm welcome by Kodagu District Disaster Management Authority head Ananya Vasudev. NDRF Commander R.K. Upadhyaya said that the team will be of great help during floods and landslides if they occur in the district like the last two years. "It is not possible for us to prevent damage but we can rescue people who are in trouble or rescue people who are marooned in flood waters," he said.

Caught unawares due to the unpredictable heavy rains and landslides in Kodagu in 2018, the State Government and the local administration were criticised for not taking adequate precautions. In 2018, the NDRF team was summoned when the floods and landslides were at its peak. As such, a team of NDRF personnel had camped in the district before the onset of monsoon last year.

In tandem with officers

Remarkably, the team was able to rescue many people caught in floods and landslips last year. The NDRF team will function in tandem with the Revenue Department, Police, State Disaster Response Force and also the Forest Department.

In Karnataka, the NDRF teams have been deployed at Chikkamagalur, Belagavi and Dharwad. Last year too, the same NDRF team led by Commander Upadhyaya had served in Kodagu. Before coming to Kodagu this year, the team rescued hundreds of people hit by cyclone Imphan in Odisha.

Over 35 locations in Kodagu have been identified as vulnerable by the Geological Survey of India (GSI), including 13 locations classified as highly vulnerable. District officials are in the process of identifying areas vulnerable to floods and landslips based on the data sourced from the GSI and also the data collated from previous tragedies.

GSI findings

The GSI findings point out that deforestation, conversion due to the rapid commercialisation of the hill station that is one of the most popular tourist destinations in the State and country are the main reasons for the rampant landslides. The heavy rains that lashed Kodagu for weeks in August 2018 claimed the lives of at least 18 to 20 people, cattle and destroyed hundreds of acres of coffee estates and other properties. Even last year it rained and there were reports of loss of over a dozen lives at Thora village along Kerala border in Virajpet taluk while four to five persons are missing till today. Also there were many incidents of villages getting marooned for days together leaving many homeless.

Efficient equipment

Equipment including unmanned boats, inflatable floating bridges and dewatering pumps to attend to any flood-like emergency situation will be used this time. Woodcutting machines and life jackets too have been stocked. The unmanned boats will help personnel transport ropes and life jackets across flooded areas.

District Administration sources told 'Star of Mysore' that the NDRF team will survey the vulnerable areas of the district and conduct mock drills simulating disaster scenarios to instil confidence in people. The authorities, like last year, have planned to relocate families living illegally close to river banks to mitigate sufferings. Government land has been identified to relocate them, officers added.

Govt. proposes to re-open Schools in phases from July 1

Bengaluru, June 3- Following a directive issued by the Union Home Ministry asking State and Union Territory Governments to hold consultations at the Institutional level with parents and other stakeholders on re-opening of Schools alongwith necessary COVID precautionary and safety guidelines, Primary and Secondary Education Minister S. Suresh Kumar held a meeting with top department officials at Vidhana Soudha here on Tuesday.

The meeting issued a circular asking Heads of Government and aided Schools to hold parent-teacher and School Development and Monitoring Committee (SDMC) meetings and directed the teachers and staff to come to Schools from June 5 for kick-starting the preparations.

The meeting also proposed a tentative time-table according to which Pre-Primary classes will start from July 20, classes 1 to 3 (Primary) from July 15, classes 4 to 7 (Higher Primary) from July 1 and classes 8 to 10 (High School) from July 15. Classes 8 to 10 has been proposed a delayed start from July 15 as the SSLC exam (2019-20) is scheduled to take place from June 25 to July 4. The Department, apart from coming up with guidelines on School re-opening, issued some directions for implementation which included holding of classes in two shifts (morning and evening), breaking up of sections based on the number of students and running of Schools on alternate days.

The Department further directed Schools to start the admission process from June 8 and also to hold parent-teacher and SDMC meetings between June 10 and 12 and send feedback to the Department by June 15.

Based on the feedback, the Government will officially announce the dates of re-opening of Schools along with the necessary guidelines on COVID-19 regulations to be followed.

Diploma in Interior Design Studies

Mysuru, June 3- Mysore Interiors & Designs Academy — Institute of Interior Design Studies will be starting a one-year Diploma in Interior Design Studies affiliated to Jain University for students, housewives and working executives from July, 2020.

The classes will be held between 11 am and 1 pm and 2 pm and 4 pm. For application and admission, contact the Academy at Sree Cauvery Educational Institutions campus, Adichunchanagiri Road, Kuvempunagar, between 10 am and 4 pm before June 20 or Mob: 90353-36060 or 94488-50502 or Ph: 0821-4256549, according to a press release from Course Director Reginald L. Sharaon.

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Printed by T.S. Gopinath and published by M. Govinde Gowda on behalf of Academy Newspapers Private Limited at Academy Newspapers Private Limited, 15-C, Industrial 'A' Layout, Bannimantap, Mysuru-570 015. Editor: M. Govinde Gowda. Phone: 2496520/2496521/2496523/ 2496526/2496527/2496528 Fax: 0821-2496525, 2496530. City offices: Visveshwaraya Building, III Floor, K.R. CIRCLE, Mysuru-570 001, Ph: 2431774 and No. 114, D.Devaraj Urs Road, Mysuru-570 001, Ph: 2428695, E-mail address: voice@starofmysore.com, For Advertisements: ad@starofmysore.com, RNI Reg. No. 29894/78.